

REMARKS:

This amendment is for the purpose of presenting Claims 58-62 to complete the claim coverage. This amendment is also for the purpose of supplementing the election in accordance with the prior Restriction Requirement in view of the Office Action dated April 14, 2005.

Claims 58-62 are directed to the non-elected species of Figures 23 and 24. Since these claims, however, are dependent on generic Claim 54, if Claim 54 is allowed then Claims 58-62 should also be allowed. Accordingly, Claims 58-62 are presented to complete the claim coverage.

It is also noted that by the present amendment Claim 29 has been amended to replace "apparatus" with "assembly" for consistency with the preamble of its parent claim. In addition, Claim 54 has been amended to delete the recitation in the preamble of "sliding or rolling" to be sure that Claim 54 is generic to the elected species of Figures 13-16A as well as the non-elected species of Figures 23-24. In that regard, a difference between the two species is that Figures 13-16A disclose the hardened surface of the object being stationary with the blade being movable by its sliding or rolling contact with the guide. Figures 23-24 show the alternative where the blade is clamped to the guide and it is the hardened surface which moves.

The Director is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-

2775 with regard to the five additional claims which have been added by this amendment.

In accordance with the Office Action of April 14, 2005, applicants make the following Supplemental Election. In the Office Action Examiner Shakeri indicated that although applicants had elected Group I, Species A of Figures 13-16A some of the claims indicated as being elected were not readable on the elected species. Note was made of applicant's response on September 7, 2004, to a prior election.

In the prior election applicants indicated that, of the claims pending at the time, Claims 1-3, 6-13, 39, 44-51 and 53 were readable either specifically or generically on Figures 13-16A. In view of the present Office Action the now pending claims have again been carefully reviewed, particularly in light of the comment by Examiner Shakeri regarding claims not readable on the elected species. As a result of that review applicants reaffirm the election of Group I and Species A which comprises Figures 13-16A. The claims readable either specifically or generically on the elected group and species are independent Claims 11, 53 and 54, as well as dependent Claims 2-3, 6-10, 12, 15, 44-50 and 55-56. In addition, it is assumed that Figure 11A, which was added with the amendment of February 17, 2005, would also be included in Species A. As such, Claim 51 would also be readable on the elected invention. If Examiner Shakeri considers Figure 11A to

be a different species, then Claim 51 would not be readable on the elected invention.

The present designation of claims differs from the prior designation in the election made on March 29, 2005, in the following respects. Claims 4-5 are no longer included in the elected claims. These claims are directed to the feature of, for example, a spring 22 which is shown in non-elected Figure 17, but had been included in the previous designation of claims because although illustrated in the combination apparatus could be used solely with the elected conditioning apparatus. The omission of Claims 4-5 from the elected set of claims is consistent with the election made on September 7, 2004. It is also noted that the present group of elected claims, unlike the original election includes Claim 15. At the time of the original election on September 7, 2004, Claim 15 was an independent claim. Claim 15 is now dependent on elected Claim 54 and adds to its parent claim the feature of the angular precision which is readable on the elected species. Note is also made that the present designation of elected claims includes Claim 50 which is readable on both the elected species, namely, Figure 16A as well as a non-elected species, namely, Figure 24. In that regard, Claim 50 adds to its parent claim 45 (which in turn is dependent on Claim 54) the feature of the knife guide being pivotally mounted to the support member with adjusting structure controlling the angle of


orientation of the knife guide. This is clearly shown in Figure 16A where the knife guide 7b is adjusted by means of the elements 41-43. Finally, the present designation of elected claims does not include Claim 52. Although Claim 52 is dependent on elected Claim 54, Claim 52 adds the feature of at least one sharpening station. As such, it is not readable on the elected species.

In summary, the claims readable on the elected species (assuming Figure 11A is part of the elected species) are Claims 2-3, 6-12, 15, 44-51 and 53-56.

Applicants have attempted to fully comply with the restriction requirement and to address the matters raised in the Office Action of April 14, 2005. If Examiner Shakeri believes that this response is deficient, he is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any deficient matters can be resolved.

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